

REMARKS

To advance the prosecution of the application, as well as further clarify the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art represented by the *Galís et al.* patent, claim 1 now specifies, not only the particular entities that constitute the data model for facilitating the provisioning of network components, but also the manner in which these entities are interrelated with one another. Even if the *Galís* patent is interpreted to disclose the general desirability of storing information about a network in a database, it is respectfully submitted that it does not teach, nor otherwise suggest, the *specific* combination recited in the claims, comprising particular groups of entities that are interrelated with one another as claimed. At best, the *Galís* patent discloses that its configuration database 914 maintains the physical inventory of the communications network 500, as well as the aspects of the logical network 922 and its relationship with the physical network (col. 11, lines 45-49). It does not, however, say *how* the database should be divided into various entities, nor the various relationships of those entities to one another, in a manner that suggests the particular arrangement recited in claim 1.

In rejecting claim 3, the Office Action refers to the disclosure in the *Zager* patent that elements of a database can have a one-to-many, many-to-one or many-to-many relationship. Again, however, this general statement does not suggest the particular relationships that are recited in the claims. Even if one is aware of all of the components that make up a network, and the fact that these components can relate to one another in various ways, there is no teaching in either the *Galís* reference or the *Zager* patent that would lead one to select the particular groupings of components recited in the claims, i.e. the various pluralities of entities, and to


interrelate them to one another in the specific manner set forth. Any rejection of the claims on the basis of these two references can only be made with hindsight knowledge of the present invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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